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Letter dated 20 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge a protest over the harassment of diplomatic representatives of foreign countries accredited in Belgrade by the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) on their visits to Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia. The representatives have recently drawn the attention of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to ever more frequent instances of crass and arrogant behaviour of the international presences, including physical maltreatment, personal and baggage searches and outright use of force.

The systematic and deliberate harassment of diplomatic representatives accredited in Belgrade is aimed at diverting international attention from the dramatic problems and the difficult situation in Kosovo and Metohija brought about by the failure of KFOR and UNMIK to carry out their mandate. Needless to say, such behaviour protects and promotes only the interests of ethnic Albanian separatism in this Serbian province.

The most recent example was the stopping of H.E. Mr. Valeriy Yegoshkin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at the administrative border between the Republic of Serbia and its autonomous province of Kosovo and Metohija on Sunday, 17 September 2000. Even though Ambassador Yegoshkin produced a diplomatic passport, the members of the United Kingdom KFOR demanded to search his automobile.

The practice of harassment of foreign diplomats accredited in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the obstruction of their legitimate work is particularly reprehensible against the backdrop of regulation No. 2000/42, on the establishment and functioning of liaison offices in Kosovo and Metohija, adopted contrary to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, by which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNMIK has allowed illegal work to representatives of foreign countries through these offices. The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations provides for freedom of movement and travel of the members of diplomatic missions in the territory of the receiving State. Consequently, KFOR and UNMIK have no business obstructing foreign diplomats accredited in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the performance of their duties

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in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls upon the Security Council to ensure that KFOR and UNMIK take all necessary measures to protect foreign diplomats on tours in Kosovo and Metohija and make it possible for them to carry out their duties unperturbed.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.